

WI-377  
Train Venables House  
Riverton vicinity  
Private

c. 1870

The Train Venables house stands at the end of a gravel drive off Riverton Road in the historic community known as Spring Grove. Marking the county road between Riverton and Mardela Springs is the old Spring Grove Methodist Episcopal church. The Train Venables house, along with the Russell house (WI-374), are two mid to late nineteenth century dwellings that survive as remnants of this former river community. The Train Venables house is a story-and-a-half, one-room plan structure dating around 1870. Now enclosed, the front porch used to have turned posts and decorative corner brackets. The one-room plan main block extends to the rear with a single-story service wing.

Train Venables surfaces in the land records as the grantee for this house and lot in an 1885 transfer from Thomas W. English. In later transactions the property is referred to as "Spring Grove."

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Train Venables House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-377

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):    Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):    Industrial-Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):                Single family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-377

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Train Venables House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 11013 Riverton Road    not for publication

city, town Riverton       X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

| Category             | Ownership                  | Status                      | Present Use                |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>  </u> district   | <u>  </u> public           | <u>X</u> occupied           | <u>  </u> agriculture      |
| <u>X</u> building(s) | <u>X</u> private           | <u>  </u> unoccupied        | <u>  </u> commercial       |
| <u>  </u> structure  | <u>  </u> both             | <u>  </u> work in progress  | <u>  </u> educational      |
| <u>  </u> site       | <b>Public Acquisition</b>  | <b>Accessible</b>           | <u>  </u> entertainment    |
| <u>  </u> object     | <u>  </u> in process       | <u>X</u> yes: restricted    | <u>  </u> government       |
|                      | <u>  </u> being considered | <u>  </u> yes: unrestricted | <u>  </u> industrial       |
|                      | <u>X</u> not applicable    | <u>  </u> no                | <u>  </u> military         |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>  </u> museum           |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>  </u> park             |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>X</u> private residence |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>  </u> religious        |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>  </u> scientific       |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>  </u> transportation   |
|                      |                            |                             | <u>  </u> other:           |

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Edward Ray and Mary Ann Stickel

street & number 11013 Riverton Road telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 5, P. 102  
liber 907

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 536

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-377

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Train Venables house at the end of a gravel drive with an address of 11013 Riverton Road, southeast of the village of Riverton, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame house faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

The northeast (main) elevation of the story-and-a-half, one-room plan house is covered by an enclosed porch. A photograph of the house taken before main alterations were made depicts a turned post porch embellished with simple corner brackets. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior is clad with plain weatherboards and the roof is covered with tin. The base of the roof is treated with a boxed cornice.

The northwest gable end is pierced by six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and narrow four-over-four sash windows on the second floor. The gable end is flush.

Attached to the back of the front block is a single-story rear wing that has been enlarged with single story enclosed porch additions.

An interior photograph of the house before and during remodeling shows a plain post and lintel mantel that was flanked by an enclosed winder staircase.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-377

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Train Venables house stands at the end of a gravel drive off Riverton Road in the historic community known as Spring Grove. Marking the county road between Riverton and Mardela Springs is the old Spring Grove Methodist Episcopal church. The Train Venables house, along with the Russell house (WI-374), are two mid to late nineteenth century dwellings that survive as remnants of this former river community. The Train Venables house is a story-and-a-half, one-room plan structure dating around 1870. Now enclosed, the front porch used to have turned posts and decorative corner brackets. The one-room plan main block extends to the rear with a single-story service wing.

Train Venables surfaces in the land records as the grantee for this house and lot in an 1885 transfer from Thomas W. English.<sup>1</sup> In later transactions the property is referred to as "Spring Grove."<sup>2</sup>

The house deserves listing in *Category B*, which identifies properties of moderate architectural and historical interest.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, IDT 158/227, 4 March 1929, "being the same land which was conveyed to Train A. Venables by deeds from Thomas W. English on September 4, 1885."

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, A J S 829/565, 1 November 1974.



WI-377  
Train Venables House  
11013 Riverton Road  
Riverton vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Map 5, Parcel 102

907/536                      Marcus N. Ruff  
                                    Jean S. Ruff

to

10/14/1978                  Edward Ray Stickel  
                                    Mary Ann Stickel

A J S 829/565                Caper Acres, Inc.

to

11/1/1974                    Marcus N. Ruff  
                                    Jean S. Ruff

Parcel 3   2 3/4 acres   "Spring Grove"

JWTS 607/4                   Richard E. Cullen  
                                    Willis L. Hancock, trustees

to

2/26/1965                    Caper Acres, Inc.

JWTS 285/36                  L. Atwood Bennett

to

1/31/1947                    B. Scott Bennett

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Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 280/457                      J. Asbury Holloway

to

9/23/1946                      L. Atwood Bennett

L. Atwood Bennett

to

9/21/1946                      J. Asbury Holloway  
Spring Grove

IDT 204/88                      Fred Terry, widower

to

2/3/1937                      Della Bennett  
James G. Bennett

2 3/4 acres



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Train Venables House

11013 Riverton Road

Riverton vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title continued

IDT 158/227

Etta Elliott and others

to

3/4/1929

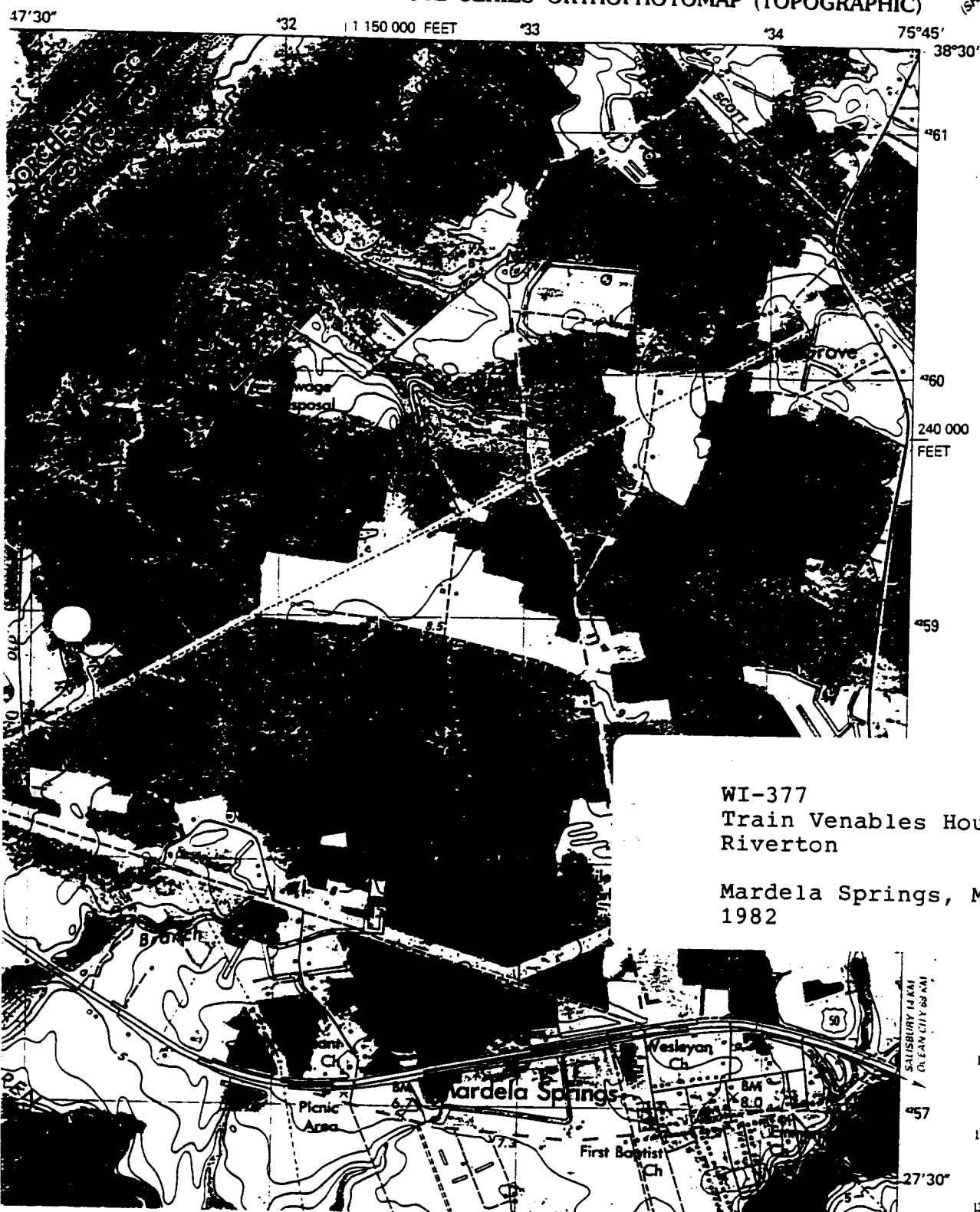
Fred Terry

being the same land which was conveyed to Train A.  
Venables by deeds from Thomas W. English, 9/4/1885

MARDELA SPRINGS QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5861 N 5W  
(SHARPTOWN)



WI-377  
Train Venables House  
Riverton

Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle  
1982

CONVERSION  
SCALES

